



# THIS MONTH

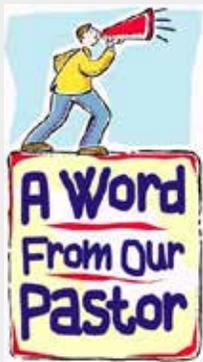
March/April 2015



The Calvary United Methodist Church Newsletter

1415 Miller, Ann Arbor, MI 48103 • (734) 769-0869 • calvary1415@att.net • <http://a2calvary.org>

## minister's message



My first class in seminary was Christian Ethics and as I sat in the back row, we went over our syllabus. It contained the usual components: reading schedule, due dates, and expectations.

I was surprised to see our professor had a policy in place where she would lower our grade if she suspected we were browsing the internet instead of taking notes on our laptops. In her words, she felt it was “unbecoming of graduate students.” While her policy seemed strange to me at first, in the weeks that followed, I quickly learned why she decided to implement that mechanism. Over the course of the semester, with the view of nearly everyone’s laptop screen available to me because I sat in the back, about half of the students spent the entire class period answering emails, checking Facebook, and doing just about anything but take notes.

Easter is right around the corner, and in a few short weeks, we will celebrate the news of an empty tomb and a risen savior. Yet, it seems Easter comes and goes like any other day, and the powerful message of

sin and death’s defeat has simply become another story we’ve heard a thousand times. How can this be? How can the greatest message of hope and transformation be rendered useless in the hearts of God’s own people?

In my Christian Ethics class, I don’t think it’s any wonder the students who were paying close attention to the lecture and class discussion were molded so much more by the course than those who lost themselves in the world of the internet. The students who chose to maximize their opportunity had to remove the potential distractions and fully engage the classroom experience. I’m sure you know where I’m going with this. In this Lenten Season, may you prepare your heart,

mind, and soul for the celebration of Christ’s resurrection either through self-denial and the removal of everyday conveniences or through the addition of other spiritual disciplines like prayer, daily devotions, almsgiving, and the repentance of sin.

Grace and Peace,



**Andy Lee**

## **easter tunes**

Consider joining the Calvary Singers, especially through Easter, and enjoy making music with friends! Practices are before church on Sundays in the chapel at 9 am. Be there or be square! Talk to Sandra or Gerald for more information.

## **met'n ate**

Here's a picture of fun at the Meet'n Eat at the Grand Traverse Pie Co on Saturday, February 21.



## **good news**

There is exciting news for the Habitat for Humanity Good News House -- 1091 Rambling has an owner! 1091 Rambling is one of last year's two houses renovated by the Good News House group.

Her name is Angela Peters and she is actually a member of a Good News congregation - First Unitarian Universalist.

Angela Peters was raised in the small farming community of Ida, Michigan. Determined to receive a higher education and be part of the first generation of her family to go to college, she moved to Ypsilanti in 1991 to attend Eastern Michigan University. Angela earned her Bachelor of Business Administration degree (with honors) in 1999. It took her 8 years to complete her degree as she was supporting herself while funding her own schooling. This is just one example of her persistence and dedication to achieving her life goals despite managing a debilitating illness.

Working in both the administrative and technical fields, Angela's last position was an accountant

for the University of Michigan. In 2007, Angela became permanently disabled from an illness that she has battled most of her life. When she was no longer able to work, losing the ability to make her mortgage payments, she lost the condominium she owned. She was forced to move into a one-bedroom apartment in a local subsidized housing community. She has spent the last 7.5 years living in an environment that exacerbates her current health problems and encompasses frequent criminal activity.

Believing in enriching peoples' lives with animal companions and service dogs, Angela and her dog "Sky," a local Humane Society rescue, performed pet therapy at local retirement homes until Sky's passing in 2006. Angela currently volunteers for a local K9 Search and Rescue group, helping to train dogs to find missing people. Having a house and yard will once again allow her to own and train working dogs. She will also be sharing her new Habitat home with her current two rescue kitties, Titan and Rajah!

Angela is also an artist. She recently began to create and sell wire-wrapped, semi-precious stone jewelry which she is marketing through her own small business, Angela's Agates and Stone Wear. You may see her selling her jewelry at local craft fairs and markets this summer. She is also a stained glass artist, but was forced to give this up when she lost her home due to space restrictions. She can't wait to set up her glass studio in her new Habitat home!

Angela is a member of the First Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Ann Arbor. She is also a member of a knitting and handicraft group at the Whittaker Road Branch of the Ypsilanti District Library. Her other interests include genealogy and writing.



Having her own home once again will give Angela the chance to live in a safe and healthy environment. She will be able to pursue her interests and continue her animal rescue work.

Thank you for being a part of her journey!

## learning from leadership day

Calvary sent a contingent to soak up ideas and information at the **Ann Arbor District Leadership Training Day on Saturday, February 28.**

Attendees Andy Lee, Val Losse, Ed Wier, and Karen Woollams started the day with an inspiring keynote talk by Ken Nelson, pastor at Redford Aldergate church. He says to do "Whatever It Takes!" The first rule of church growth is **MAKING CHRIST'S LOVE VISIBLE** and that starts with being in mission with our building (reaching out to 12 step and community groups, showers, receptions, concerts, recitals, etc. in addition to all weddings and funerals who come calling--whether or not they can pay). We can also seek tangible infectious ways to show God's love. The first step is to figure out what we are already good at, do it more, and give it away! For the Redford church, that was meals--feeding more people like they were good at feeding church members at pot-lucks! Calvary is already starting that with our Calvary Cooks spaghetti dinners!

What else is Calvary good at?

Also important to Pastor Nelson is for all to share the message that "God loves you and there is nothing you can do about it!"

He suggests that another way to reach out with God's love, whether or not it brings people into Calvary, is involvement in a local school. We can offer to be a partner, provide some needed school supplies, care packages for teachers, and volunteers at the school or in after-school activities. Our nearby Peace Neighborhood Center is another possibility for Calvary.

We can start a conversation at Calvary about how we can do "Whatever It Takes!"

Val attended the "Welcoming Visitors, Engaging Newcomers" workshop. The first suggestion was that we must nurture the people in our church that are here already. A theme that ran through the workshop was "would the neighborhood miss our church if it closed today and what is our

church known for in the neighborhood?"

There should be a person that welcomes strangers and doesn't overwhelm them. It would be nice to have a brochure that gives an overview of our church with a schedule of events for the next six months or till mid-year and end of year, to invite them to Fellowship Time after the service. Being a good listener is always a good thing.

Other important ideas are to have some events without charge i.e. ice cream social, potluck dinner, square dance etc. We also need to develop a strategy for the church to become a focal point for the neighborhood and beyond.

Andy and Karen attended the workshop about "Hope in the Legal Landscape." Number one is to have enough insurance! We should be sure our insurance agent knows about us and our building use to ensure the insurance is right and limit our liability exposure. Other than that, if we take care of our property, we can use the space inside and out to Be the Church! We can be welcoming and let our building be used by and for the community. Useful information about internet policies, copyright, HIPAA, employment issues and sales tax were shared that can help guide various committee's decisions and actions.

Ed attended the workshop focused on church revitalization led by Rev. Taek Kim, pastor at the Carleton United Methodist Church. (Rev. Kim is also Pastor Andy's mentor.) Rev. Kim spoke on the importance of healthy churches and healthy pastors – which are the basis and foundation for church revitalization. They discussed characteristics of healthy churches and pastors and challenges in creating/maintaining a healthy church and a healthy pastor. Rev. Kim challenged us all to build relationships in our church and in our community, drawing people closer to God, with Christ's love.

## holy yoga

Calvary has a NEW Weekly Holy Yoga class. Come enjoy a yoga class with scripture and praise music to heal the body and soul on Tuesdays from 4:30-5:30 pm in the chapel! The class is open to all and the first class is free!

Five-ten folks of all ages are attending each class so far, and there is space for you! Bring your mat



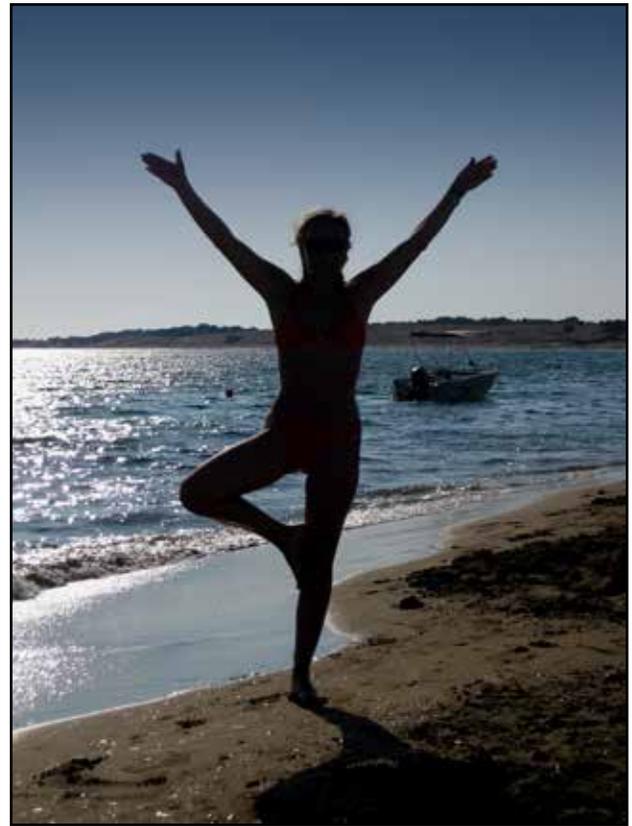
(some yoga mats are available to borrow) and wear comfortable clothes for the stretching and moving of yoga. The Holy Yoga class is an out-reach activity for Calvary, so invite your friends and neighbors!

Holy Yoga is experiential worship created to deepen people's connection to Christ. The sole purpose is to facilitate a Christ honoring experience that offers an opportunity to believers and non-believers alike to authentically connect to God through His Word, worship, and wellness.

See <http://www.BuckeryWellnessA2.com/> for more info on the class and teacher, Diane Buckery. \$8 fee per class and scholarships are available.

In addition, Diane is learning about "*chair yoga*" for those who have trouble getting up and down from the ground etc. If you are interested in taking a free chair holy yoga class, let Karen Woollams know and you will be included when it is being scheduled.

**Join the fun!**



## birthdays

### march

- 1 Mark Roberts
- 3 J.R. Leonard & Chris Wallace
- 5 Keith Jameson
- 8 Amanda Lowe
- 9 Elaine Roberts
- 14 George Bigelow
- 17 Abigail DeVee & Ryleigh Lowe
- 18 Hannah Wallace
- 24 Regina Noland

### april

- 2 George Thompson
- 4 Allison Wier
- 5 Richard Fischer
- 7 Derek DeVee
- 8 Susan Johnson
- 10 Renee Griffin
- 13 Kathy Sanders
- 16 Steve Roberts
- 18 Jennie Viery
- 24 Dion Woolfolk
- 29 Brad Hamilton
- 30 Peggy Thompson



**the refrigerator page**

(you know, to hang on the frig door, so you don't miss anything)  
Check your bulletin for details and dates and times that may change.

**FOOD COLLECTION** – March 8 (and every 2nd Sunday)

**ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD MEETING** – Tuesday, March 10, 5:30 pm.

**FINANCIAL COMMITTEE MEETING** – Wednesday, March 11, 5:30 pm

**TRUSTEES MEETING** – Tuesday, March 24, 5:30 pm

**PALM CROSS MAKING PARTY** –

Saturday, March 28, 6 pm dinner, 7 pm palm cross making

Join with Calvary friends for dinner then making Easter crosses from palms at the Wier's house.

**NURTURE MEETING** – Thursday, April 2, 5:30 pm

**EASTER CELEBRATION** – Sunday, April 5

Easter service followed by Easter Egg Hunt for kids!

**FOOD COLLECTION** – April 12 (and every 2nd Sunday)

Non-perishable food and personal items for Faith In Action's food pantry.

**CALVARY COOKS SPAGHETTI DINNER** – Saturday, April 18, 4-7 pm

Community spaghetti dinner to benefit Habitat for Humanity.

**Weekly Activities:**

**TUESDAY FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST** at Village Kitchen, 241 N Maple, 8:00 am

Start one morning a week with a GOOD breakfast and GREAT fellowship.

**HOLY YOGA** – Tuesdays, 4:30 pm

Enjoy a weekly yoga class with scripture and praise music to heal the body and soul! Open to all--first class free, \$8/class, scholarships available.

**BIBLE STUDY** – every other Wednesday, 7:00 pm

Join Bible Study at the church every other Wednesday night, led by Dr. George Thompson alternating with Pastor Andy.

**YOUNG ADULT BIBLE STUDY** – Thursdays, 7:00 pm

At the Parsonage with Pastor Andy.



**March/April 2015**

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Calvary United Methodist Church  
1415 Miller  
Ann Arbor, MI 48103



Please check and return to church office to cancel newsletter

### The Calvary United Methodist Church Newsletter

Rev. Andy Lee, Pastor  
1415 Miller, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48103

(734) 769-0869  
calvary1415@att.net  
<http://a2calvary.org>

Sunday Worship 10:00  
Sunday School 11:15

#### **Still want a printed newsletter?**

Calvary has transitioned to a primarily digital newsletter. *If you would like to continue to receive a printed newsletter, let us know by calling or writing Calvary (see contact information above). Thanks!*

To make sure you get the digital newsletter, send your email address to Karen Woollams <woollams@umich.edu> or check out our website at <http://a2calvary.org/>